faultless elaboration of the original idea, you have the qualities that mainly characterise every production of the Greek mind, where all had to undergo the ordeal of fastidious criticism from a nation of critics.

The Pæstum temples differ from those of Greece, chiefly in the greater massiveness of their columns and the flatness of the mouldings. One of them has a column instead of an interspace in the centre of the portico, and a range of columns up the middle of the interior. This peculiarity of plan, which has caused so much speculation, is satisfactorily explained by a reference to the temple of Kom Ombo, in Upper Egypt. There, too, the portico has an odd number of columns in front, and two entrances lead to two suites of inner doorways. An inscription still extant explains the cause of the peculiarity: it was a *double* temple dedicated to two gods.

THE BAY OF BAIÆ.

While the cities of the Greek colonists were flourishing along the gulfs of Sorrento and Naples, the shores of the bay of Baiæ became, under the empire, the favourite retirement of the patricians of Rome. It was, in fact, to them what the Lake of Como is to the magnates of modern Italy. Its beauties are of a more ordinary and homely kind, and more circumscribed in extent, than those of the two larger bays. Its vicinity to the harbour and arsenals of Misenum may have contributed to render it so favourite a haunt with the Romans. Every beautiful point and headland became the site of some aristocratic villa, the walls and terraces of which were washed by the ripple of the landlocked bay; and fragments and substructions of these villas are still seen all along the now deserted coast, standing in the water and under it. As every ruin must have some name, the ciceroni have affixed to these shattered fragments the high sounding names of Marius, Sylla, Pompey, Cæsar, &c.

Under the empire magnificent public structures arose around the bay, usually octagonal or round in plan, and roofed with vast hemispherical vaults of tufo, which, from its lightness, is admirably adapted for the purpose. Although the whole coast has been rocked and rent by earthquakes, some of these immense *rotondos* still remain tolerably perfect; others having been riven by earthquakes, huge rock-like fragments have fallen from the vault, and thus let in glimpses and stripes of the blue sky, the ragged edges of which are beautifully fringed with shrubs and pendant foliage. It were equally easy and unprofitable to descant on the object and purpose of these structures. Local antiquarianism styles them temples. They have more analogy to the immense circular *exhedræ* of the imperial baths than to any other buildings in Rome. They are constructed with brick quoins and courses, filled in with reticulated work in tufo. The vault is solid, and narrows in substance as it ascends. The tufo has been corroded by the sea breeze, but the brick and cement resist it. Within the solid of the walls are arches of construction, with voussoirs formed of immense tiles, the wide intervals between which are filled with brickbats. Though the walls have been riven asunder and sometimes thrown down by volcanic or some other terrific agency, they stand as hard and compact as rocks, it being easier to fracture than to disunite the materials.

One of the octagonal temples of Baiæ is remarkable as offering probably the only ancient examples of a balcony supported by small arches, on brackets or corbels. These project from large openings, one on each side of the octagon. They are doubtless the prototypes of the arched balcony now so common in southern Italy.

At half an hour's distance from Baiæ, on the promontory of Misenum, is the Piscina Mirabile, a square block of massive and lofty vaulted galleries in brick, still perfect. In the palmy days of Rome they formed the reservoir which supplied water to the Roman fleet lying at anchor in the port below. This magnificent cistern is worthy of the people whose stately aqueducts strided over the plains of the Campagna to supply their capital with the purest water from the distant mountains. The great architectural monuments of Greece and Egypt [illegible] or religious; but the most wonderful works of Rome were [illegible] to unite the distant provinces to the metropolis and heart of the empire, aqueducts and cisterns to supply fleets and cities with water, baths to promote the health of the myriads of a crowded metropolis.

Not far from the Piscina Mirabile are the prisons of Nero, an extensive range of subterranean excavations.

At Pozzuoli, on the opposite side of the bay, are several remains of the ancient Puteoli, which stood on the same site. The most interesting are the mole or pier, the temple of Serapis, and the amphitheatre. The plan of the Serapeon is unlike that of any other building existing in Italy, or in the world. A quadrangular court was inclosed by colonnades; in the middle of the quadrangle stood a circular temple on a raised basement which still exists. A portico of taller columns occupied the centre of one side of the quadrangle, and seems to have formed the entrance to the temple. There were also numerous small chambers and cells, which appear to have been indispensable to all Egyptian temples. It is thought that some of these were baths, whither patients resorted to bathe in consecrated water. The pavement of the quadrangle is now flooded by the sea. The marble columns of the palace of Caserta were taken from this building.

The *Amphitheatre*, which for ages had been half-buried under a diluvial deposit, has been recently disentombed in excellent preservation. Like all other Roman ruins in the vicinity, it is built of bricks and tufo. It had seats for 45,000 spectators. There were vaulted chambers and galleries under the arena, lighted by large square openings in the vault, which were covered with planks when the arena was used for the shows. An inclined plane, passing under the chief, or Consular entrance, gives access to these subterranea. It was at Puteoli that St. Paul first set foot on Italian ground, whence he proceeded towards Rome.

Along the whole of this wonderful coast the action and effects of subterranean fire meet you at every step. No fewer than 20 craters have been counted here. At one of these, the *Solfatara*, the fire is rather smouldering than extinct. The Solfatara is a small sandy sulphurous plain, in a basin of white sulphurous rock, and resembles, except in size, that most arid of deserts, the Desert of the Dead Sea. Hot vapour issues from crevices in the rocks; when you stamp on the ground, it reverberates with a hollow sound—and hot water was found at the depth of 100 feet when the basin was bored by the French. A natural sweating-bath may be immediately formed by constructing a low building around one of the perforations in the rock, and thus confining the vapour. Such are the baths of S. Germano. Alum and sulphur are prepared at the Solfatara, and there is also a manufactory for the famous Pozzulana cement.

The host of travellers that resort to the Bay of Baiæ from Naples to visit the wonders of nature and art in its neighbourhood, have called into being a troop of hungry *ciceroni* and showmen, who hold a kind of vested interest in old ruins, steaming fountains, and sulphurous caves. Some lie in wait for the tourist in the vicinity of the Sybil's Cave, lead him along a narrow, dark, rock-hewn gallery, to two or three subterranean grots filled with water, through which you are carried and landed in what they gravely assure you was the sybil's bath! The flaring torches throw a wild and fitful light through these gloomy shades; but the loud laugh, the merry nonsense, the genuine English and the bad Italian with which the dark galleries resound, banish all ideas of the supernatural and the ghostly.

At the baths of Nero, on the margin of the bay, another exhibition awaits you. The *custode* having stripped to the waist and lighted a torch, runs with it down a subterranean adit, intensely hot with vapours from a spring at the extremity; in two or three minutes you begin to hear the groans of a dying man along the adit; they grow more and more distinct, and presently the poor fellow reappears, streaming with perspiration, his face wild, haggard, and deeply furrowed,—in his hand a small vessel of hot water, containing an egg, which he has brought from the hot spring. He throws himself on a seat, half dead with heat and exhaustion. The egg is presently boiled. In the outer cave, where we stood, the air under the roof was very hot, while the lower stratum was cool, so that when stooping low you might walk without inconvenience.

At the Grotta del Cane a dog is made the victim to scientific curiosity. The poor beast is held over the poisonous gas as it issues from the rock, and in a few seconds becomes stupified and senseless; but on being removed to fresh air, presently recovers, to be again similarly tortured before another audience.

The low headland between Naples and the volcanic plain skirting the bay of Baiæ, is pierced by the ancient gallery called the Grotto of Posilipo, about half a mile in length, and at present upwards of 100 feet high. It still forms part of the high road between Naples and Pozzuoli. Two or three similar tunnels, through this ridge, have recently been re-opened by Government.

MOVEMENT AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting was held on the 7th inst., Mr. Bellamy, V. P., in the chair. On the motion to suspend the bye-law 23, that "No member who has filled the office of president for two successive years shall be again eligible to the same situation until the expiration of one year from the termination of his office," with a view to the re-election of the Earl de Grey,

Mr. Tite said, no member entertained greater respect for their noble president than himself, or had a fuller sense of the obligations conferred by him on the Institute; he should not be misunderstood, therefore, when he said it appeared to him important to inquire whether or not they should have for president some distinguished member of the profession. A certain degree of success had attended the establishment of the Institute, but in his opinion it did not occupy the ground it should. The principal architects did not support it as they should, and it occurred to him that if the honour of the presidency were open to them it would be an additional inducement for them to come forward. Other societies had found such a course desirable. There were some reasons why the Institute had not taken the ground it ought, and it seemed to him worth inquiry if this were one of them. He threw this out without any reference to the present election, but for a future year, and renewed his desire to have his motive properly understood.

The chairman, and Mr. Kendall after him, agreed in thinking the inquiry desirable.

Mr. Godwin said, that without expressing an opinion at that moment on the particular question which had been raised, he entertained a strong conviction that a fuller and more searching inquiry into the position and scope of the Institute was necessary. He could assert of his own knowledge, that it did not occupy that position in the opinion of the great body of the profession throughout the kingdom which it should do. The number of members was not half what it ought to be, and its usefulness was not universally admitted. He attributed it himself to an exclusive spirit which pervaded the laws; he desired to see the opportunity given for other classes immediately connected with architecture to become co-operators. In the Institution of Civil Engineers this was the case, and great advantage had resulted from it. That some alteration was necessary seemed to him evident, if only from the existence of the *Architectural Association*. If the Institute were liberally constituted and did its duty, surely there could be no occasion for this second society: the gentlemen forming it ought to be able to find within the walls of the Institute greater advantages for the same amount of subscription than they could provide for themselves. He felt so strongly the necessity of some change, that if no other member took any step in the matter, he would move for the appointment of a committee of inquiry.

Mr. Pownall quite agreed with the last speaker that an extended inquiry was necessary, and that more liberal views should prevail. The laws as they then stood, excluded all who measured for tradesmen. It was well known that many educated and properly qualified architects also practised measuring, and for this they were to be excluded from the

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